

The West Watch

Neighborhood Group

THE REPORTER

JUNE 2010

**WEST END YOUTH CENTER
20TH AND GREENLEAF STREETS
MEETING 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH**

NEXT MEETING: 7 P.M. TUESDAY, JUNE 8

CONTACT US

Website:

www.TheWestWatch.org

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This Month's Guest Speaker

The speaker for our June 8 meeting is Mike D'Amore, President of City Council. Mr D'Amore will be presenting a proposed zoning change to our group and the members of our community.

A Word From Our President

Hello Neighbors:

The month of June marks the beginning of the summer season and the dismissal of students for their summer break. Please be aware of increased pedestrian traffic, especially children on bicycles. Remember the speed limit in the City of Allentown is **25 MPH** on all streets unless posted otherwise.

The West Watch is still looking for volunteers to serve on several committees and also for anyone who would serve as a block captain. Information can be obtained from any Board member.

Mark Your Calendar:

Monthly Meeting August 10, 2010

West Watch Block Party September 25, 2010

Please note that there will not be a general meeting in July.

Get a **Checkmate Card**: The card allows you to stay anonymous to the police communications center when you call in to report a suspicious activity or any other issue. The card assigns you a number for your calls.

Attend a monthly West Watch meeting. Remember it is your neighborhood and it is your home. Share your concerns about the neighborhood at the monthly meeting with your neighbors.

When we voice our opinion and communicate our concerns, we can maintain and improve the **Quality of Life** in our community.

Thank You, Gerry Alfano



YES!! I am very pleased with the work that the West Watch Neighborhood Group is doing and I would like to make a donation to support their many efforts such as the newsletter, meetings, and community events



SORRY. I am not able to help the West Watch Neighborhood Group with a financial contribution at this time but I would like to help in other ways. Please contact me with how I can help.

You can make your check or money order payable to:

The West Watch Neighborhood Group
& Send it to:
809 N 20th St.
Allentown, PA 18104

Block Captain

The West Watch Neighborhood Group is looking for **BLOCK CAPTAINS**. The block captains monitor the activities of their neighborhood and assist residents with solutions. If you are interested in becoming a Block Captain, please contact the President Gerry Alfano at gfa1westend@rcn.com or attend the next meeting.

You don't have to be a victim of crime

There has been much talk in the media of the economic downturn. Some people are saying that this will inevitably lead to a rise in crime but this need not necessarily be so and you can in any event minimize those risks.

Methods of breaking into homes have included using an implement to open a UPVC door through the letter box. This can be avoided by locking the door on the inside with a key and keeping the key where every occupant can find it in case of emergency. An alternative method for the burglar is to use a garden implement to force a rear or patio door. It is therefore sensible to lock away in the garage or shed all garden implements. Other useful advice would include never leaving the house in darkness when you are out, fitting PIR lights that are activated by movement, joining the West Watch Neighborhood group and ensuring that neighbors look out for each other.

Burglar alarms are a great deterrent and marking all property (including recording serial numbers) increases the likelihood that you would get any stolen property back. Remember as well that most cars are stolen these days by burglars getting hold of the keys so keep the keys out of sight in the house.

There has been a slight increase in the number of thefts from cars although this does follow a massive reduction last year. The advice as always is don't leave anything attractive to a thief on view. In particular, Satellite navigation devices and laptops but clothing and sports bags are attractive to the desperate thief.

Finally, there has also been a slight rise in the number of assaults in the city. Allentown does have a significant drug problem when compared with similar areas but the misuse of alcohol can lead to people acting irresponsibly and certainly raises the likelihood of becoming a victim

Numbers To Know

Police-Fire-Ambulance	911
Police –Non-emergency	610-437-7751
Police—Vice Unit	610-437-7726
Mayor Pawlowski	610-437-7546
Noise Complaints	610-437-7751
Street Lights	610-437-7735
Weeds/Overgrown Grass	610-437-8729
Graffiti Removal/ Recycling	610-437-8729
Sweep Program	610-437-8729
Vacant Property Issues	610-437-7694
Zoning Violations	610-437-4360
Neighborhood Disputes	610-437-7616
Animal Control	610-437-7535

Yard Waste Site Information 2010 SCHEDULE

NEW Hours!

The Main Allentown Yard Waste Site is located at Fish Hatchery & Oxford Dr. and will be open as follows:

SPRING (Apr 3-May 29) Saturdays- 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

SUMMER (May 29-Sept 25) Saturdays- 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. , Wednesdays 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

FALL (Sept 25-Nov 20) Saturdays 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

WINTER (weather permitting) Feb 6, March 6, March 20, Dec 4- Saturdays 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.